In the Claims:

1-50 (cancelled)

51. (new) A system for monitoring and controlling a plurality of appliances, said system comprising:

access means providing said appliances with internet connectivity; and

at least one central server located on the internet, through which all data from said appliances and users of said system passes;

wherein said system is capable of allowing any said user to simultaneously communicate with a plurality of said appliances in real-time;

wherein said appliance contains an embedded internet access means built-in as an integral part of said appliance;

capable of allowing a plurality of said users to simultaneously communicate with any particular said appliance in real-time;

capable of allowing any said appliance to communicate with a plurality of other said appliances simultaneously and in real-time;

wherein said appliances automatically logon to said central server at regular pre-programmed intervals to report their status;

wherein said system has means to send out alerts to said users;

wherein said system has means to communicate with any other internet enabled device using XML; and

wherein said system has means to encrypt and decrypt communication between said central server and said appliances.

52. (new) A system for monitoring and controlling a plurality of appliances, said system comprising:

access means providing said appliances with internet connectivity; and

at least one central server located on the internet, through which all data from said appliances and users of said system passes;

wherein said system is capable of allowing any said user to simultaneously communicate with a plurality of said appliances in real-time;

wherein said appliance contains an embedded internet access means built-in as an integral part of said appliance;

capable of allowing a plurality of said users to simultaneously communicate with any particular said appliance in real-time;

capable of allowing any said appliance to communicate with a plurality of other said appliances simultaneously and in real-time;

wherein said appliances automatically logon to said central server at regular pre-programmed intervals to report their status;

wherein said appliance connects to said central server using said unique identification means and a password in combination;

wherein communication between said appliance and said central server is encrypted;

wherein said system has to send out alerts to said users;

wherein said system has to communicate with any other internet enabled device using XML; and

wherein said system has to encrypt and decrypt communication between said central server and said appliances.

53. (new) A system for monitoring and controlling a plurality of appliances, said system comprising:

access means providing said appliances with internet connectivity; and

at least one central server located on the internet, through which all data from said appliances and users of said system passes wherein said central server contains software application means for a plurality of users of said system to write and modify said program control means and the writing and modification of said program control means is done through a graphical user interface (GUI);

wherein said system is capable of allowing any said user to simultaneously communicate with a plurality of said appliances in real-time;

wherein said appliance contains an embedded internet access means built-in as an integral part of said appliance;

capable of allowing a plurality of said users to simultaneously communicate with any particular said appliance in real-time;

capable of allowing any said appliance to communicate with a plurality of other said appliances simultaneously and in real-time;

wherein said appliances automatically logon to said central server at regular pre-programmed intervals to report their status;

wherein said system has means to send out alerts to said users;

wherein said system has means to communicate with any other internet enabled device using XML; and

wherein said system has means to encrypt and decrypt communication between said central server and said appliances.